

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /024 R

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: BAN ON EXPORT OF RHESUS MONKEYS

REF: NEW DELHI 9922

1. REPORT RECEIVED JULY 19 BY INTERAGENCY PRIMATE STEERING COMMITTEE (IPSC) THAT GOI HAS LIFTED ITS EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF RHESUS MONKEYS AND THAT PRICE IS BEING INCREASED IMMEDIATELY BY FIVE DOLLARS PER ANIMAL. IPSC REQUESTS EMBASSY TO VERIFY THIS. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT PROPOSAL BY MOL ENTERPRISES FOR AN EXCLUSIVE EXPORT ARRANGEMENT AT A MUCH HIGHER PRICE IS NOT BEING ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE.

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2. REFTTEL QUOTES EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY JOINT SECRETARY JAYAL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION, ABOUT REPORTS THAT RHESUS SENT FROM INDIA TO THE USA ARE (QUOTE) BEING USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (UNQUOTE). EMBASSY MAY ASSURE SECRETARY JAYAL THAT SUCH REPORTS ARE NOT FACTUAL. BOTH U.S. IMPORTERS OF RHESUS, I.E., PRIMELABS AND PRIMATE IMPORTS, REQUIRE THEIR

CUSTOMERS TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATES THAT THE MONKEYS BEING PURCHASED WILL BE USED ONLY FOR BIOMEDICAL PURPOSES AND

THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE HUMANE TREATMENT. SUCH CERTIFICATES ARE VALID ONLY WHEN COUNTERSIGNED BY OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE. THIS PROCEDURE WAS INITIATED BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND THE USA IN 1955 AND HAS BEEN CAREFULLY FOLLOWED SINCE.

3. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO PARA. 2 OF REFTEL:

(A) IN 1976, U.S. IMPORTERS SUPPLIED RHESUS TO MORE THAN 50 INSTITUTIONS, ALL OF THEM CONDUCTING HEALTH RESEARCH OR VACCINE TESTING.

(B) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RHESUS SOLD BY THE IMPORTERS DURING 1976 WAS: PRIMELABS 5,803 AND PRIMATE IMPORTS 6998. INFORMATION ON RETAIL PRICES IN THE USA FOR THESE ANIMALS WAS PRESENTED IN DETAIL IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 27, 1977, TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, SIGNED JOINTLY BY MESSRS. D. D. DHAWAN OF PATTERSON AND B. K. RAI OF VITA. THE INFORMATION ORIGINATED WITH PRIMELABS AND PRIMATE IMPORTS, AND THEY ARE, OF COURSE, IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH IT. THE PRESENTATION ITEMIZES THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS THAT MAKE UP THE FINAL PRICE, TABULATING THE FIGURES BY THREE WEIGHT CATEGORIES. THE AVERAGE SELLING PRICES SHOWN ARE: DOLS. 185 TO DOLS. 205 FOR ANIMALS UNDER 4 KGS; DOLS. 250 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DOLS. 335 FOR 4 TO 7 KGS; AND DOLS. 390 TO DOLS. 425 FOR OVER 7 KGS. EITHER PATTERSON OR VITA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH FURTHER DETAILS IF NEEDED.

(C) THE LARGEST SINGLE USE FOR THESE ANIMALS WAS TESTING POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE. ALTHOUGH NO EXACT CALCULATIONS EXIST, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE NEXT LARGEST USE WAS IN REPRODUCTIVE STUDIES, FOLLOWED BY BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH.

(D) BREEDING PROGRAMS FOR RHESUS MONKEYS AND ALSO FOR OTHER SPECIES OF MONKEYS ARE IN PROGRESS IN THE USA. SUCH PROGRAMS ARE NECESSARY FOR STUDIES ON REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY, ESPECIALLY FOR RESEARCH ON FERTILITY REGULATION, WHICH IS OF HIGH PRIORITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH. ANIMALS ARE ALSO BRED IN CAPTIVITY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES SUCH AS GENETIC STUDIES AND WORK WITH DISEASE-FREE ANIMALS.

4. INFORMAL CHECK ON MOL ENTERPRISES, PORTLAND, OREGON, PROVIDES NO INDICATION OF EXPERIENCE OR ABILITY TO HANDLE BUSINESS IN NONHUMAN PRIMATES, AND NO PHYSICAL PLANT TO RECEIVE AND HANDLE SUCH ANIMALS IN THE USA. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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